

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of certain informalities. The abstract has been amended to remove informalities.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-21 & 30 are objected to because of certain informalities.

Claims 1 and 30 have been amended to remove informality.

As to claim 5, the Examiner has stated that “the applicant inconsistently utilized “back off time” for a first traffic category” and “backoff time” in a hardware “backoff timer” The examiner recommends that the applicant amend the claim to indicate that one of the backoff times is new whereas the other is an existing value in the hardware.” Applicants believe that the language of claim 5 clearly distinguishes the two backoff times. For example, claim 5 recites if the backoff time for the first traffic category is equal to the backoff time in the hardware backoff timer, then waiting until the hardware backoff counter expires. This clearly distinguishes backoff time for the first traffic category from the backoff time in the hardware backoff timer. Applicants believe that the language of claim 5 is clear for one skilled in the art. Accordingly, Applicants do not believe that claim 5 requires any amendment.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benveniste (Patent Pub. No.: US2002/01 54653). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the hardware counter is a single hardware counter with a plurality of virtual hardware counters. This aspect is shown and described in

figure 2. Benveniste does not teach this limitation. Accordingly, claim 1 and those depend therefrom are patentably distinguishable from Benveniste.

Applicant believes this application and the claims herein to be in a condition for allowance. Please charge any additional fees, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0668. Should the Examiner have further inquiry concerning these matters, please contact the below named attorney for Applicant.

Respectfully submitted,



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